Dallas Collects Notes Left at JFK Death Site

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Dallas, Tex. (AP)—More than 500 bits and pieces of emotional tribute to President Kennedy, left at the site where he was assassinated, are under lock and key at the Dallas Public Library.

Some samples are on display in a glass case. The others are stored in the Library's vault. Eventually, most of them probably will be restored and displayed.

Until recently the mementos were stored in a city warehouse with no apparent intent to offer them for public view.

Then Mrs. Martina Langley, who was instrumental in persuading the city to erect a historical marker at the assassination site, began agitating for preservation and display of the mementos.

City Went Along

Taking a cue from the historical marker fuss, in which public opinion swung behind Mrs. Langley, the city with little fanfare in April transferred the mementos to the library.

Mrs. Lucille Boykin, chairman of the Texas History and Genealogy Division, has a free hand in restoring the Kennedy tributes, but she's limited on two counts: a small amount of display space and the poor condition of some notes and poems, bleached by the sun or blurred by rain.

"The whole event is always going to be part of Dallas history," Mrs. Boykin said. "These mementos are a part of the respect and admiration for the man. Many people traveled hundreds of miles just to come here to the site."

The Dallas Park Dept. collected the mementos during the first year after the assassination when the sloping parks near the scene were crowded with people and floral wreaths.

Impromptu Sentiments

A few persons brought poems or prepared sympathy cards. But many others were so moved they scrawled their sentiments on a business card, the back of a telephone bill, or a page torn from an address book.

"You taught us all to have affection for our fellow man," wrote Helen Stichion of Baltimore.

A girl named Susanna from Yugoslavia wrote: "The heart of many other nations grieves. He understood the problems of the world and fought for peace between men."